

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ( ISO ) W

----- 119747

R 281152Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2712

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10587

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW,UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS RELAXING --AT LEAST FOR NOW--ON BERLIN

1. SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG EMBASSY HERE TO COOL TEMPERS ON BERLIN. THEY CONTINUE TO USE THE SAME OLD CARROTS, HOWEVER, IN ATTEMPTS TO ENTICE THE FRG TO TOE THE SOVIET LINE ON THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. OUR FRG COLLEAGUES HERE MEET ALMOST MONTHLY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE THIRD EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF  
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MFA FOR AN INFORMAL LUNCHEON. THE ATMOSPHERE AT THESE

LUNCHEONS DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAD BEEN RATHER STRAINED BECAUSE OF THE DUEL BEING WAGED IN PRIVATE AND PUBLICLY OVER BERLIN. THE FRG POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAST SUCH LUNCHEON, HELD APPROXIMATELY JULY 24, AND ATTENDED BY BONDARENKO, CHIEF OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, TOOK PLACE IN A RELATIVELY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. BERLIN CONTINUED TO DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS --INDEED MONOPOLIZED IT--BUT, SO THE FRG EMBOFF TELLS US, THE SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE MAKING A DISTINCT EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY THE EMOTIONAL CONTENT OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS ON THE ISSUE.

3. THE SOVIETS STRESSED DURING THE LUNCHEON THAT BERLIN "MUST CEASE BEING A BONE OF CONTENTION" IN SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED, THEY CONTINUED, WHEN THE FRG CEASES MAKEING "DEMONSTRATIVE GESTURES" ON BERLIN. INDEED, THEY CONTENDED, WHEN SUCH GESTURES CEASE, AND THE PUBLICITY ACCOMPANYING THEM CEASES, "OUTSTANDING BILATERAL MATTERS" CAN BE EASILY SETTLED. THE SOVIET UNION IS DOING NOTHING TO HAMPER THE VIABILITY OF THE CITY. THE FRG, HOWEVER, SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST TAKE OTHER FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, THE REACTION OF THE GDR, FOR EXAMPLT, IN ITS HANDLING OF BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BE APPLYING THE SAME ROUTINES WHICH WE HAVE SEEN SO OFTEN IN THE PAST. THEY CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT THE CARROT OF SOME UNSPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IF THE FRB WILL TOE THE SOVIET LINE ON BERLIN. AND THEY CONTINUE TO PORTRAY THE GDR AS THE BAD GUY ON BERLIN, IMPLYING THAT THE FRG SHOULD VIEW BERLIN AS AN EXCEPTIONAL ISSUE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INFLUENCE THE GENERAL COURSE OF THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. IT NEVERTHELESS DOES SEEM APPARENT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING A REAL EFFORT TO COOL TEMPER ON THE ISSUE. THEY WILL DOUBTLESS AGAIN FIND OCCASION TO RESTOKE THE FURNACES BUT THEY HAVE EVIDENTLY DECIDED THAT THE WARM SUMMER WEATHER ON THE EVE OF THE HELSINKI SUMMIT IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO GIVE THE COAL SHOVEL A REST.

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